

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
December 10, 2020 1:00 P.M.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) met on December 10, 2020, at 1 P.M. in a Zoom meeting to consider matters relevant to duties of the Alabama Public Charter School Commission outlined in the *Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act* for public charter schools in Alabama.

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chairman David Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was taken by Mrs. Logan Searcy. Eight members were present which represented a quorum. Members of the Commission who participated were the following:

Henry Nelson	Dick Brewbaker(absent)
Allison Alexander	Rebecca Lee-Gwin(absent)
David Marshall	Paul Morin
Marla Green	Sydney Raine(left early)
Steve Siple	Kim Terry

Chairman Marshall asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from the September 28, 2020 meeting. Sydney Raine made the motion to approve the agenda and the minutes, and Marla Green seconded the motion with eight members present. The vote was to approve. Eight of ten members were present.

Discussion and Consideration of Amendment Request by Ivy Classical Academy, Breakthrough Academy and Magic City Acceptance Academy

Chairman Marshall introduced the next item on the agenda which was a request from three charter schools Ivy Classical Academy, Breakthrough Academy, and Magic City Academy for an amendment to their charter contracts concerning the number of days a charter school is granted to submit to the Charter School Commission a request for an extension to open a school from 180 days before school starts to 90 days. Chairman Marshall asked Mr. Lane Knight to explain to the commission the charter school law and charter school contract that requires the 180 days before school request and the reasoning from the trio of schools seeking the amendment. Lane Knight stated that the summer of 2020 was the first time there had been a summer cycle for applications creating the problem for the schools having enough time to make a written request for a year extension to the commission using the 180-day requirement. Discussion was had that there would not always be a summer cycle, and this request for the amendment to change the 180-day notification to the committee to 90 days would not necessarily mean that there would always be a summer cycle. A motion was made by Henry Nelson to approve the amendment of a change from 180 days to 90 day for schools if there were a summer cycle. Sydney Raine seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous.

Consideration of Amending Approved Charter Contract Template for Summer Cycle Approvals

Chairman Marshall noted that the consideration of amending the charter school contract template went with the above action to amend the number of days required for a charter school to present in writing a request for extension to opening from 180 to 90 days. There was again assurance that amending the

template did not mandate that there would always be a summer cycle for applications. Allison Alexander made a motion to accept the request to amend the Charter School Contract Template for the 180 to 90 day written extension for charter schools applying during summer cycles. Marla Green seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Amendment Request from Legacy Prep

Chairman Marshall allowed Mrs. Jonta Morris from Legacy Prep to make a presentation supporting their request to move into a larger facility enabling long term growth and to add high school grades 9-12 to their existing K-8 population. Mrs. Morris provided survey results and letters of support from parents, current scholars, and community members in support of the move and extension of grade level. Also shared were testing results supporting academic growth of Legacy scholars. It was shared that Miles College was interested in partnering with Legacy to provide the new facility. Legacy Prep was reminded that the new location must be within Birmingham City School's district as written in the Charter School Contract. Mr. Henry Nelson made a motion to accept Legacy Prep's request for an amendment to change location and add grades nine through twelve. Marla Green seconded motion. The vote was 6-1 in favor of accepting amendment. The amendment was accepted.

Consideration of Amendment Request from Lead Academy

Chairman Marshall introduced the next item which was a request from Lead Academy to be allowed to add an additional sixth grade class and to add seventh grade to the school. A motion was made by Mrs. Marla Green to accept Lead Academy's request. There was no second. Further discussion was had regarding concerns about past leadership and capacity concerns about Lead Academy. Rep. Charlotte Meadows representing Lead Academy joined the discussion providing assurances that the prior concerns had been addressed. Rep. Meadows assured the commission that Lead Academy was in a much better place and moving forward. Call for a second to first motion was made. Steve Siple seconded the first motion. Vote was 3 yes' for motion, 3 no's against motion 1 abstained, and 1 commissioner no longer on call (Sydney Raine). Motion failed. Discussion continued. A new motion was presented by Henry Nelson to accept the original proposal by Lead Academy of growth in sixth grade and an addition of seventh grade. Steve Siple seconded motion. Vote was 4 yes' to accept motion, 2 no's not to accept motion and 1 abstained. Motion carried. The amendment request was accepted.

Adjourn

Chairman Marshall adjourned the meeting with a message to all commissioners for health and happiness during the holidays and the New Year. Logan Searcy shared that new charter school applications are due by December 17, 2020.